

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Roy Chavera, Samantha Blizzard, Peter Myo Khin, Jerold Samet, Faustina Smith-Neil, Shivonne Laird, Frederick Stichnoth, Jeffrey Bond, Richard Romer, Fisseha Adugna, Hildegard Sylla, Sharon Brown, Curtis Watkins, Fatmata Barrie and Jeremiah Pope.

Guests Present: Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Councilmember Tom Hucker, Mara Parker, Brian Anleu, Vikki Garcia, Craig Wilson, Clarence Snuggs, Margaret Poore, Ed Weiler, Rosie M Moody, Ken Flemmer, Karen Michels, Frank Cockrell, Mark pharaoh, Robert Phillips, Laounodj Mbairessem, Jean Hufand, Tom Hufand, Virgil Tuqor, Lynn Tuqor, Samuel Atolaiye, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Harriett Quinn, Babbie Adewole, Ellise W-Barnes, Ghandi Olauye, Remi Duyile, Margie Goergen

Staff Present: Montgomery County East County Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh.

Approval of the April 5, 2017 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the April 5, 2017 summary. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Presentations by Special Guests: Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County At-Large Councilmember provided an update on various topics including the County's FY 2018 Operating Budget deliberation and key areas such as funding for schools, labor contracts. She provided an update on a few County Council legislative accomplishments to date and related committees' activities; the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan funding and implementation; affordable housing related needs, Viva White Oak developments; Transportation related developments-US 29 Bus Rapid Transit System, including the ongoing discussion on developer contributions, funding for the amended capital improvement program and recommendations under review for the BRT corridor project route, funding for metro-extra service as recommended by many residents, station locations along the route and general amenities, local bus service planning, design/construction options, community outreach. She also briefly discussed Air B&B as an issue in the County, expecting a public hearing on this issue in June or July, and the approved Bill 49-16, which will provide a County microloan program from \$500 to \$15,000 for residents to help start a business.

Clarence Snuggs, Director, Montgomery County Housing and Community Affairs presented the Montgomery County Council Bill 19-15, with focus on Landlord-Tenant Relations, Licensing of Rental Housing, Landlord-Tenant Obligations. Furthermore, he talked about:

- Bill 19-15, as primarily a tenant's right bill, which also addresses responsibilities of landlords and code enforcement as well
- Bill 19-15, after about two years work sessions and hearings, was signed in December 2016
- There are 31 elements of Bill 19-15
- Promotes housing improvements include more multi-family housing
- Improvements to living conditions, affordable housing, and availability of affordable housing, currently there is a shortage of affordable housing
- Eviction prevention-process and MCDHCA resources for tenants and landlords

- Common housing complaints-deposits, ordinary wear and tear/damages, move in/out, leases
- Housing code enforcement and inspections
- Foreclosed properties

ECCAB Board Members and/or Community attendees asked questions and/or made comments which were effectively addressed and/or acknowledged by Councilmember Nancy Floreen, Mr. Snuggs and his staff. Councilmember Tom Hucker stopped by and made brief remarks about some council legislative achievements, including new legislation on foreclosed properties, neglected and/or registered, related fines to bank and property owners; Burtonsville MD 198 and the Crossroads Shopping Center developments.

ECCAB Regional Office Director Jewru Bandeh Update: A request to the public was sent out soliciting new applicants to fill vacancies on ECCAB board. ECCAB board members need to be identified to review applications, conduct interviews and make recommendations. In addition, Board member volunteers are needed represent ECCAB on matters relating to White Oak Master Plan developments. Board members were reminded to submit request for reimbursement for approved expenses, by June 1st. Manna Food distribution will be done inside the recreation center next door.

ECCAB Chairperson Update: ECCAB Chair Roy Chavera asked board for board member volunteers to conduct applicant interviews. Chair Chavera and Curtis Watkins volunteered to fill this role. Richard Romer and Fatmata Barrie were identified as volunteers for the Urban Land Institute White Oak Master Plan TAP project interviews. A motion was made to approve these board member volunteers, it was seconded and approved. In addition, Chair Chavera thanked Richard Romer for his BRT presentation made before the council. Peter Myo Khin was thanked for his presentation regarding the FY 2018 Operating budget.

ECCAB Sub-Committee Chair Planning/Economic Development Update: Peter Myo Khin briefed members on the traffic safety issue at Tech Road and Prosperity Drive/US 29, as discussed at a ECCAB/PED sponsored community meeting on April 12th. He explained the temporary solution appears to be working well to re-route/regulate traffic patterns to avoid further traffic accidents at the intersection.

ECCAB Sub-Committee Chair Quality of Life Update: Samantha Blizzard briefed/advised that the last meeting was cancelled due to a lack of interest and/or a related lack of topics to be addressed. She openly appealed to the board members for more support of this sub-committee.

Update from Montgomery County 3rd and 4th Districts Police Department: MCPD Commander Marcus Jones returned upon graduation from the FBI Academy. He provided general crime statistics citing that overall crime was down in the 3rd District. He briefed members on current staffing levels for police officers in the department. In the summer, there will be a crime suppression detail organized to address auto thefts. Citizens should be prudent if/when leaving items in their vehicles. According to the 4th District report, auto thefts were generally down. General crime statistics for the district were also provided.

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Update from Council Staff: Representatives Mara Parker and Brian Anleu briefed the board on matters including but not limited to the following topics: Status of FIX-198, county budget and related traffic management, and progress on BRT.

Community attendee(s) were provided opportunity to comment on related and/or local matters.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.